

EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL AND REMEDIAL SOFTWARE FOR SOL INSTRUCTION

The purpose of the review is to provide school divisions participating in the Standards of Learning Web-based Technology Initiative with evaluations and correlation of technology-based materials for instruction and remediation. The software review committee of a school division has reviewed and submitted each review.

- Only reviews of software/Web sites that are found to be effective for instruction and/ or remediation are submitted by a school division.

School Division: Page County

Division Software Committee Contact: Karen Campbell

Title: Technology Resource Teacher

Phone #: 540-652-1916 Email: kcampbel@pagecounty.k12.va.us Fax: 540-652-1916

PRODUCT INFORMATION

- Title: American Government
- Version #: Web site
- Copyright Date: September 2000
- Title of Series:
- Title of Component [module] if applicable:
- Publisher/producer: ABC-CLIO
- System Requirements: Internet access. Version 4 or later browser (Internet Explorer, Netscape Navigator, or AOL). Browser must be JavaScript and cookie enabled. Plug-ins for QuickTime and Flash recommended, but not required. 133 MHz or faster processor recommended.

Standards of Learning Correlations and degree of Correlation with the Product

ENGLISH:

☒ English – Research SOL#12.8 (Exceptional), SOL # (Exceptional), SOL # (Exceptional)

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE:

☒ Virginia and United States Government SOL #GOVT.1 (Exceptional), SOL #GOVT.7 (Exceptional), SOL #GOVT.10 (Exceptional)

UTILIZATION AND TEACHER PREPARATION

Classroom applications of the software/Web site in your division, including grade/ability level, student grouping, and special needs:

American Government is applicable to 12th grade United States Government and Advanced Placement Government students. The Web site may be used in whole-group instruction, students may be grouped for research purposes, or individual assignments may be given. The research section is used by students to locate specific information, while the student section provides a more complete exploration of a topic. The review quizzes offer a quick check for understanding. The current events on the home page can be a springboard for class discussion.

Type and degree of teacher training required to support effective utilization of the software/Web site.

The Web site is generally easy to use. Teachers can easily access the site from school or home to plan lessons or make assignments. Complete utilization of the teacher management aspects would require some training for most teachers. The overall navigator of the site is quite user-friendly.

Vendor teacher training available for this product - Yes
If "YES", is cost: included in purchase price;
is training: on-site with company presenter ;
quality of training: exceeded expectations

DIVISION'S ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

The teachers who reviewed this site felt it was an excellent resource for use in the classroom. The amount and variety of resources that are available for research are exceptional. The student section leads the students through guided exploration of specific topics, with information, illustrations, quizzes, handouts, and discussion questions. In addition, resources are correlated to textbooks. Teachers have the ability to post class announcements and assignments, as well as generate tests from a database of test questions.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS and TEACHER SUPPORT MATERIALS

Indicate if the software/Web site has been reviewed in either of the following sources:

- In *EvaluTech* (<http://www.evalutech.sreb.org/>) - Yes or No: No
- if yes - date reviewed:
- In *Educational Software Preview Guide* (ISTE)
(<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Technology/imt.html>) - Yes or No: No
-
- if yes - date reviewed:

For products not reviewed by either EvaluTech or *Educational Software Preview Guide*, the division provided the following information:

Ease of use Exceptional

Ease of installation and/or setup and/or login Exceptional

Scope of content Exceptional

Accuracy of content. Exceptional

Teacher's Guide and/or teacher support materials. Moderate

Assessment - record keeping and reporting for student progress. Minimum

Access for students with special needs Minimum

Authoring system which teachers can use to insert own problems and/or data Minimum

Pacing – control of by teacher Exceptional. Pacing – control by student Exceptional

Bilingual Minimum

Encourages student interactivity – creativity, higher order thinking, and problem solving Exceptional

Demonstration – specific aspect of a curriculum area Exceptional

Drill and practice with feedback to students Not Applicable

Game format – comments and scoring appropriate Not Applicable

Exploration by students Exceptional

Guided Practice Exceptional

Software program's Internet/Web use – the connection/linking from a non-Web-based program to Web sites Exceptional

Internet/Web-based program/activity - the site's links to other sites Exceptional

Multimedia media authoring – for student use to develop presentations Not Applicable

Logic and problem solving – student strategies and input Exceptional

Electronic reference Exceptional

Simulation Exceptional

Within program or Web site - Test/Quiz feature Moderate

Personal productivity tools available for student or teacher use Not Applicable

Tutorial mode Not Applicable

Test/Quiz Generator mode – teacher tool Moderate

Data Recovery System Not Applicable

Addresses student/user security issues Moderate

If requires use of Web browser, list browser requirements, including lowest usable version # Internet access. Version 4 or later browser (Internet Explorer, Netscape Navigator, or AOL).

If requires the use of "plug-ins", list required plug-ins: Plug-ins for QuickTime and Flash recommended, but not required.

List the major strengths of this program/Web site: This Web site includes a wealth of information that is easily accessible to students. The guided explorations provide students with the opportunity to analyze and synthesize knowledge with application to real-world situations.